

Celebrity Buzz

Depp's next role might be husband

pg 14



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Derks

Avalanche victim mourned

TRAGEDY Friends and coworkers are mourning an Alberta man who was the last to be pulled from a deadly avalanche in northern B.C. Sunday.

"He was the worst, in the middle, buried in about 20 feet of snow," said Darril Skaley, lifelong friend of victim Harold Keith Waldner, from Waldner's hometown of Rycroft yesterday.

The 45-year-old was an avid snowmobiler, and had travelled to mountains near Chetwynd, B.C., with 13 others, including two of his sons.

Four other snowmobilers were buried, but were rescued.

"He was the last one to be found, and it just took too long to dig him out," Skaley said. **METRO EDMONTON**

Metro Homes pg 10



Add some spark to your home

Sports pg 9

Quebec poker star shows 'No Mercy'

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A new report released by the Pembina Institute says Alberta could generate enough electricity through renewable methods, such as wind power, to meet the province's needs even if consumption doubles over the next 20 years.

Go totally green?

Renewable energy could power province, report says

JEFF CUMMINGS
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Alberta's power needs can be met entirely by renewable energy, even if electricity consumption doubles over the next 20 years, says a new report released by the Pembina Institute yesterday.

The report said Alberta can harness the green energy with "proven technologies" that are already in use in the province and elsewhere.

Alberta also has the worst polluting electrical system in the country with coal-fired power plants making up 23 per cent of the province's greenhouse gas emissions, said the report.

"We did the math on it and we found out there is much more renewable potential to power the entire province."

Tim Wells, report co-author

And the province has a chance to create new jobs in the renewable energy sector while ending its demand on "dirty" energy sources, the report said.

"We did the math on it and we found out there is much more renewable potential to power the entire province," said report co-author Tim Wells in an interview with Metro yesterday.

Wells said the province can make the suggestion in the report a reality based on what other coun-

tries have already done.

"There is more here than just wind, much more resource than we ever need to power Alberta," said Wells.

Jason Chance, a spokesman with Alberta's energy ministry, said powering the entire province on just renewable energy is unrealistic.

"To meet the future needs of the province, we'll need to have a mix of both renewables and non-renewables," said Chance. "That is the most cost-eff-

fective way of providing reliable electricity service to Albertans."

Energy Minister Mel Knight, who is in London promoting Alberta's energy sector, was unavailable for comment.

The government has announced billions of dollars in spending towards carbon capturing technologies to help cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.

Wells said the province must focus on renewable energy, rather than adding to its "brown" electricity supply system.

"It would be very prudent to invest an equal or greater amount in renewable energy and efficient technologies that don't produce this pollution in the first place," said Wells.

UFOs really exist: Author

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
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UNKNOWN The truth is out there, and Albertans are experiencing it first-hand, a local UFO researcher says.

Alberta UFO Study Group director Jim Moroney said that about 75 reports of alien sightings are reported to his organization each year — roughly 10 per cent of all actual sightings, he predicts.

Kalaya Leighland said she's certain her "spirit" was abducted while at a spiritual retreat at Moraine Lake in 2005.

"I was sitting on a log, meditating, and soon found myself on a spaceship," she said. "I looked out the port window and saw the western part of Canada. I saw two small beings who contacted me telepathically."

Leighland's claim isn't all that out of this world, Moroney said.

A group of four on a highway a few kilometres north of Edmonton on Dec. 28 claim to have seen a UFO, which they had thought was an airplane.

"Most people, when they see these things don't want to report them, or don't know where to report them," Moroney said.

The author will be speaking tonight about the science behind the UFO phenomenon at NAIT in room X-107 at the South Learning Centre.



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Edmonton's Green Team made an out-of-town bust Tuesday, and seized almost 500 pot plants from a house near Killam. The weed was valued at over \$500,000. A 61-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman were arrested. **METRO EDMONTON**

Local



STOMPing out hunger

Cast members from the smash musical STOMP will be on hand at the Edmonton Food Bank on Jan. 20 to lend a helping hand to staff. After their hard work, the cast members will be using found items as instruments. Tickets for STOMP, which runs at the Jubilee Auditorium from Jan. 20 to 25, are available through Ticketmaster, starting at \$53.65.

METRO EDMONTON

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Man sought in armed robbery

CRIME RCMP in St. Albert are asking for the public's help to find a man who robbed a gas station at gunpoint.

A man walked into a Petro Canada on Gate Avenue around 10 p.m. Friday night, pointed a gun at the clerk and demanded money.

The suspect is described as a white man in his 40s, five-foot-nine to five-foot-10, with a medium build. He was wearing a dark jacket and jeans, and a green knit toque. **METRO EDMONTON**

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video George and Laura Bush reflect on life in the White House at metronews.ca/world

Video New research shows early childhood diet impacts obesity in later life at metronews.ca/canada

Video Chair of health services board vows to get health care costs in order at metronews.ca/local



Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 20, 35, 36, 37, 39, & 49 Bonus 38
These results are not official.

Grit top players sworn in

Swann unveils shadow cabinet at first news conference

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

David Swann's first news conference as leader of the Alberta Liberals was an opportunity to swear in his shadow cabinet yesterday.

Edmonton-Centre MLA Laurie Blakeman will take over duties as the party's deputy leader and environment critic.

Calgary MLA Dave Taylor, who ran against Swann for the Liberal leadership last month, will be the party's finance critic.

Edmonton-Riverview MLA Kevin Taft, who stepped down as the party's leader last year, will be the party's energy and aboriginal affairs critic.

"We're looking forward to the session where we will vigorously press for economic and energy diversification, more responsible environment development, and evidence-based reform in the health-care system as opposed to arbitrary restructuring," said Swann in the news



Alberta Liberal Leader David Swann unveils his shadow cabinet, yesterday at the legislature.

Seat count

- The Liberals currently have nine seats in legislature, close to half the seats it had before the provincial election last year.

conference.

Calgary-Buffalo MLA Kent Hehr will remain as

the party's justice critic while Calgary-Varsity MLA Harry Chase will take on education on top of his current responsibilities, children and youth services.

Edmonton Gold Bar MLA Hugh MacDonald will pick up the advanced education and technology portfolios, in addition to his current

responsibilities as chairman of the public accounts committee.

Swann took over the financially-strapped party leadership after a mail-in-ballot vote last month.

ShareYourViews

edmontonletters@metronews.ca

Motion to donate to quake victims withdrawn

SCHOOLS A city councillor has pulled back a plan that could have seen the city paying \$80,000 towards new schools in China for students displaced by an earthquake last May.

Coun. Don Iveson said in an executive committee meeting yesterday circumstances had changed since the motion to donate cash to the Edmonton Chinese Quake Relief Committee was put forth.

"I've had an opportunity to ponder this further and entertain input from the public," said Iveson. "At this point I am prepared, oddly enough ... to have the recommendation withdrawn."

The city has in the past given \$100,000 in relief money to help victims who were displaced after the South Asian tsunami.

The Edmonton Humane Society was also given city dollars in a trip to rescue pets that were displaced and neglected in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

JEFF CUMMINGS/
METRO EDMONTON

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4 local

No rumours — concert set for May
It's official, Fleetwood Mac is coming to Edmonton. Tickets will be available soon through Ticketmaster for the May 13 show. **METRO EDMONTON**

De-icing **Stable management**



Cathy Duquette, stable manager at Whitemud Equine Centre on Fox Drive, brings a quarter horse-cross named Tina into the barn yesterday afternoon to remove ice from her back and hooves.

Missing man's family won't give up search

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
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Though billboards across the prairies have only drummed up a few tips about the disappearance of Dylan Koshman, his family says they'll stop at nothing to find him.

Space on massive billboards in Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg and Saskatoon were donated by a sign company at the end of December.

The missing 21-year-old's mother, Melanie Alix, told Metro Edmonton yesterday that when the signs come down at the end of the month, family members will step up

"We'll do it because he wouldn't quit on us, I know he wouldn't."

Koshman's mother Melanie Alix

their game to find him.

"We'll do it because he wouldn't quit on us, I know he wouldn't. He's the type of man that would always be there for his family," she said through tears.

Koshman was recently added to the Alberta Missing Persons website, a comprehensive database of Albertans who have been missing for a significant period of time, and high-profile missing persons.

Since its launch almost one year ago, the site has

aided in solving a number of cases, including identifying human remains, said RCMP Cpl. Wayne Oakes.

Though Alix knows her son may not be found alive, she's desperate for closure.

"A person does not just disappear off the face of the Earth. I want him to come home whether he's alive or not. This is like living in a Twilight Zone time warp," she said.

For more information on Koshman, visit www.albertamissingpersons.ca.

Partiers get no respect: Promotion

JEFF CUMMINGS
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A small group of people are vowing to "save the party" by reminding partiers in the city's major nightlife hotspots about being responsible.

The city-managed group called Responsible Hospi-

ality Edmonton said recent violence, vandalism and disruptive acts done by a few bad apples are giving those who party on Whyte Avenue and Jasper Avenue a bad reputation.

"For the most part, both are safe places now and what we want to do is remind and enhance people's choices about their

behaviours," said Cindy Davies with Responsible Hospitality Edmonton.

The group will be on Whyte Avenue Friday night and Jasper Avenue Saturday night handing out T-shirts, buttons, stickers and hot chocolate to remind people about the "growing threat to Edmonton's parties," said Davies.

News in brief

RED CROSS CENTENNIAL The Central and Northern Alberta Red Cross is looking for stories from the public to help commemorate its centennial. The disaster relief organization turns 100 this year, and is taking submission from those

who have benefitted from relief. The agency held a volunteer open house yesterday, in an effort to help recruit almost twice as many volunteers.

LAWSUIT An Edmonton man has launched a \$1-million lawsuit against police, after he

was shot by an officer last August. Percy Davis, 26, was shot by an officer outside Capilano Mall, after police responded to a complaint that he was carrying a knife. Davis lost a lung as a result of his injuries.

METRO EDMONTON

Canadians still trapped in Gaza

Officials in Ottawa are still working on evacuating nearly three dozen Canadians from the Gaza Strip, the Foreign Affairs Department says. In a statement released Tuesday night, the department said there are still 34 Canadians who have indicated they want to leave the troubled region. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

5

Canada



Oilsands on the agenda

Alberta's oilsands, a vast oil source that critics say comes at a big environmental cost, will be on the agenda when Barack Obama, left, visits Canada on his first foreign trip as U.S. president, said Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Harper told a Calgary radio station that he has been in touch with officials from Obama's administration even as the president-elect prepares for his inauguration next Tuesday. **REUTERS**

Conservatives' military truck contract 'gross negligence:' NDP

NAVISTAR NDP Leader Jack Layton yesterday accused the Tory government of "gross negligence" for allowing Navistar International to build 1,300 trucks for the Canadian military in Texas, while laying off hundreds of workers at an Ontario plant.

"We don't have that many times when we can directly provide so many high quality jobs, particularly through procurement," said Layton of the awarding of the \$254-million contract to be filled by 2010.

"We should be buying Canadian, particularly when it comes to defence procurement," added Layton. "Job creation in Canada is an established practice. All other countries are doing it."

Earlier this week, Canadian Auto Workers Union president Ken Lewenza criticized the contract in a letter to Defence Minister Peter MacKay, asking him to "revisit" the decision. He asked for a meeting with the minister.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Five people dead after B.C. house fire

NANAIMO Five people were killed and another five injured in a house fire on the Chemainus Indian Reserve on Vancouver Island early yesterday.

While the cause of the fire hasn't been established, police said family members had been digging clams on a nearby beach using a lantern, and the fire may have started when someone brought the lamp inside.

METRO CANADA

Tories feel heat over climate

Ottawa must plan to work with Obama's proposed environment strategy

Don't tell Canada's Environment minister about "hope" and "change," the rallying cries of Barack Obama's U.S. election victory.

In the months to come, Jim Prentice must steer a complex proposal to essentially harmonize his government's much-criticized climate-change plan with the one proposed by the Obama administration. The result will be a North American market for trading greenhouse gas emissions credits, giving companies the incentive to cut

"The election of Mr. Obama and the determination and the clarity with which he has spoken on climate change really is a fundamental change."

Environment Minister Jim Prentice

their carbon footprint.

To do that, Prentice will have to change considerably the Tories' environment blueprint and hope that the hoopla over Washington's re-engagement in the global warming fight will bring the Conservatives the political breathing

room they have been denied for the last three years.

"The election of Mr. Obama and the determination and the clarity with which he has spoken on climate change really is a fundamental change in terms of the situation," Prentice said Monday.

"I think it's fair to say that we are now in a position where the policy framework we're talking about as Canadians and the policy framework the new president has spoken about are very consistent."

Prentice's view is that Obama's America has come around to the Tory way of thinking on climate change.

But faced with a new U.S. administration that is stacked with climate-change fundamentalists — people on a first-name basis with former vice-presi-

dent Al Gore — it will be up to Ottawa to find religion.

The Obama team includes retired Marine Gen. James Jones, the proposed national security adviser, who touts the primacy of energy security and is well connected in Alberta's oilsands. But it appears more weighted with appointees like climate czar Carol Browner, who dubbed President George W. Bush's team "the worst environmental administration ever."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Heroes Obama meets Spidey



Amazing Spider-Man No. 583, featuring a story about U.S. president-elect Barack Obama, hit the shelves of North American comic book shops yesterday. George Zotti, manager of a comic shop in Toronto, says his store sold out in 20 minutes. Inset: Alternate cover featuring Obama.

Checklist makes operations safer: Study

HEALTH Two minutes and a piece of paper could launch a revolution in medicine.

A seemingly simple safety check during major operations has the power to prevent millions of people around the world from suffering surgical complications, researchers reported yesterday. Safety experts are pushing for hospitals to adopt the safety checklist to ensure surgeons and their teams save lives even before

19-point list

The 19-point list checks items as basic as the patient's name and condition, confirms whether all medical images

are present and enough blood is on hand, and even asks surgical team members to introduce themselves.

they pick up a scalpel.

All the points seem simple, but when put together they become something much bigger, says Bryce Taylor, surgeon-in-chief at Toronto's University Health

Network. The study, published online yesterday in the New England Journal of Medicine, found using the checklist reduced surgical complications by four per cent. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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News in brief

CAMBODIA A Canadian man has been charged with sexually abusing two Cambodian girls aged 10 and 12, CBC News Online reports. Daniel Lavigne, 68, of Quebec was charged yesterday with hav-

ing sexual intercourse and committing indecent acts with minors, officials said.

OLYMPICS The B.C. legislature will be recalled as soon as possible to deal with Vancouver's request for an

amendment to the city charter so that it can borrow money to complete the Olympic athletes village, Premier Gordon Campbell said yesterday, CBC News Online reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

New Zealand police have arrested an alleged safe burglar by using the social networking website Facebook to track him down. Police posted security-camera footage and pictures showing the man's face as he allegedly tried to break into the safe of a local tavern on Monday, and the suspect was identified by viewers on the site. **REUTERS**

World



Cuomo over Kennedy: Poll

More New Yorkers prefer state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo over Caroline Kennedy, left, to fill Hillary Clinton's U.S. Senate seat, according to a poll released yesterday. Kennedy, the daughter of slain president John F. Kennedy, and Cuomo, the son of former New York governor Mario Cuomo, are considered top contenders to succeed Clinton, who has been nominated to serve as U.S. secretary of state. **REUTERS**

Israel rebuffs limited truce

Hamas could use 6-month ceasefire to rearm: Official

Israel said yesterday it would not agree to a temporary ceasefire in the Gaza Strip that Hamas could use to rearm, underscoring the gap between the two sides in Egyptian-brokered talks.

Hamas has rejected an open-ended truce, seeking instead a more limited six-month agreement that could be renewed, according to Arab diplomats.

"Israel will not accept a

situation where Hamas gets a temporary period of quiet just to rearm and regroup and that ends with further rocket barrages on Israel," said Mark Regev, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

"Israel seeks a durable quiet that contains a total absence of hostile fire from Gaza into Israel and a working mechanism to prevent Hamas from

Lebanese rockets fired on Israel

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed alarm over reports of Lebanese rocket attacks against Israel, and urged all parties in the region to avoid exacerbating the situa-

tion. UN peacekeepers are investigating the firings, the second such attacks from Lebanon in a week. Sources said five rockets were fired, but two fell inside Lebanon.

ter 19 days of fighting in which more than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed, along with at least 13 Israelis. **REUTERS**

Massive traffic crashes website for Aussie island caretaker job

TOURISM The chance to be the caretaker of a tiny tropical island in Australia has sparked so much interest that a rush of applications crashed the website advertising the post (islandreefjob.com).

The job, which offers a salary of \$105,000 to spend six months on the Great Barrier Reef island of Hamilton, has been inundated with hundreds of thousands of prospective candidates.

Duties for the so-called "best job in the world", cre-

'World's best job'

For more information, visit Tourism Queensland's website for the position at islandreefjob.com.

ated as an antidote to the global economic slump, include feeding ocean fish, cleaning a pool and collecting deliveries of mail that arrive by plane. The successful candidate will have to go snorkeling and hiking and visit at least 25 nearby resorts. **REUTERS**

Bin Laden calls for jihad over Gaza strikes

MIDDLE EAST Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden called for jihad against the Israeli offensive in Gaza in an audio tape that appeared on Islamist websites yesterday.

The Saudi-born militant said the global financial crisis had exposed the waning U.S. influence in world affairs and would in turn weaken its ally Israel.

"Our brothers in Palestine, you have suffered a lot ... the Muslims sympathize with you in what they see and hear. We, the mujahideen, sympathize with you also," bin Laden said. "We are with you and we will not let you down. Our fate is tied to yours in fighting the Crusader-Zionist coalition, in fighting until victory or martyrdom."

The 19-day-old Israeli offensive to crush the Islamist Hamas movement in Gaza has caused widespread anger among ordinary Arabs and Muslims.

White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said the tape "demonstrates (bin



This handout from IntelCenter shows an Internet screen grab captured yesterday of Osama bin Laden. In an online audio message released on Islamist websites, the al Qaeda leader called for jihad (holy struggle) over the Israeli offensive in Gaza.

Laden's) isolation and continued attempts to remain relevant at a time when al

Qaeda's ideology, mission, and agenda are being questioned and challenged

throughout the world," spokesman Gordon Johndroe said. **REUTERS**

Pilot wanted on fraud charges arrested after bailing from plane

CRIME U.S. marshals have arrested a pilot accused of parachuting out of his plane and letting it crash in an apparent attempt to avoid financial fraud prosecution by faking his death, an investigator said.

Marcus Schrenker, 38, was arrested late on Tuesday in the north Florida town of Quincy.

Schrenker was the only person aboard a plane that took off for Florida on Sunday from Anderson, Ind. Investigators said that as the plane flew over Ala-

bama, the pilot made a fake emergency call, then put the plane on autopilot and parachuted out.

The empty plane crashed in a swampy area near the northwest Florida city of Milton. No one was injured and no structures were damaged.

Schrenker parachuted to the ground near Harpersville, Ala., got a police officer to give him a ride to a hotel and then fled, investigators said. Schrenker was wanted in Indiana on fraud charges. **REUTERS**

News in brief

PERU The country's top court has ruled that workers cannot be fired for being drunk on the job. Pablo Cayo Mendoza was ordered to be restored to his job as a janitor for the town of Chorrillos, which fired him for being drunk at work. The firing was excessive because Cayo could still speak and did not hurt anyone, the judge said.

POLAND Authorities have un-

earthed the remains of 1,800 bodies and expect to find more in a mass grave believed to date back to the final days of the Second World War. The site is in a corner of northern Poland that was part of Germany until 1945. Authorities suspect the remains are of German civilians, at least some of whom were probably killed by Soviet forces. **REUTERS**

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Comment & Views

Comment

Eulogy for coalition

Tactic had a short, happy life in response to Tory ineptitude

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

There is important news from Quebec this week. Gilles Duceppe, the leader of the Bloc Québécois, says that reports of the death of the coalition are greatly exaggerated.

He denies that it has been weakened by the surprising emergence of Michael Ignatieff as interim Liberal leader. And he has been unfazed by a poll that shows more Canadians would prefer an election than a coalition government.

So he thinks the coalition is solid, sensible and

viable. No one should ever say that Duceppe doesn't have a sense of humour.

The coalition? Do you remember the coalition?

It was created by the Bloc, the New Democrats

and the Liberals before Christmas.

It was a smart response to the government's ineptitude

— from its paralysis on the economy (no stimulus, no deficit) to ending public subsidies for political parties (bankrupting the opposition).

It had a short, happy life, the coalition did, and it served its purpose brilliantly.

It unified and mobilized the opposition against an arrogant government and forced its retreat.

It humbled Stephen Harper, if that is possible.

It unified and mobilized the opposition against an arrogant government and forced its retreat.

It forced the intervention of the Governor General, who allowed the prime minister to prorogue Parliament and avoid a vote of

non-confidence that he would have lost.

And it forced the Liberals immediately to oust Stéphane Dion, cancel their long leadership

and crown Ignatieff. Not bad.

But that's history now. Today, six weeks on, if Harper were to seek an election from the Governor General — rather than have her request that the opposition parties form a government — he would get an election that he would probably win.

But Harper also knows the risks of an early election. He has hurt himself in

Quebec, leaving an opening for a reinvigorated Liberal party. That's why he has reversed himself so dramatically on the economy, preparing a strong stimulus package with a swelling deficit.

This won't be enough for Duceppe, or for the New Democrats, who have the luxury of opposing it. But it will be more than enough for Ignatieff, the hawks in his camp notwithstanding.

The Liberals will support the Conservatives, the budget will pass, and the government will govern. The Liberals will begin to renew themselves, which will take time.

The coalition was always more a tactic than a strategy, a spicy Christmas confection, but it's now as dead as Jacob Marley.

Andrew Cohen teaches journalism at Carleton University. He is the author of *Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson*.



Letters

Auto bailouts can address real systemic changes

In further comment on the ridiculously excessive executive salaries, as Canadians we need to be asking how and when this folly can be amended.

A recent event where potential for some redress of these ballooning paycheques is the auto-industry bailouts.

Perhaps a reasonable model of modesty in executive compensation could be extended to other public arenas, such as school boards, hospitals, transit authorities and financial institutions.

So why has Stephen Harper not seized this opportunity to establish clear guidelines for exactly how this auto-sector bailout money be used? Aren't these extreme inequities and enemies of Canadian prosperity and unity worthy of attention?

The Canadian public is entitled to more than the lip service we have been given.

This has been and still has the potential to address some real systemic changes to how business is done in Canada for the benefit of all Canadians

and not just a privileged few.

KEVIN BROWN, TORONTO

Making consensual polygamy illegal infringes on civil rights

I'm not a polygamist. Frankly, one wife is more than enough for me. But I don't think it should be illegal.

It's a way of living that goes against our country's dominant religious moral beliefs, but that's no reason to make it illegal. Hopefully, that law will go out the door like so many other antiquated laws that go against our civil rights, like the now-abolished laws against interracial marriage in the United States, or the continuing debate against gay marriage.

It's true that some polygamous relationships have been abusive, but so are quite a few monogamous relationships. We already have laws, help lines and services to deal with these horrible situations.

I don't see what making consensual polygamy illegal does, other than infringe on people's civil rights to live their lives according to their religious or cultural beliefs.

GIAN MANCUSO, TORONTO

Views

Mother and daughter relationships — revised



Georgie Binks

Is it my imagination, or are there more mother/daughter duos out there these days who more closely resemble daughter/daughter teams? The only way to tell them apart is by their foreheads. Mom's brow is firm, courtesy of Botox, while her daughter can still scrunch hers up in displeasure.

With nips, tucks, work-outs, hair colouring and a lack of great clothes for women over 50 (so we borrow our daughter's), young women have to feel their mothers breathing down, not just theirs, but their boyfriends' necks. In my day, unless your mom was Mrs. Robinson, your

boyfriend fantasized about her baking, not her.

One of my girlfriends, 57, who works out, sports a great hairdo and cool wardrobe, boasts, "I love when I'm with my 30-something daughter and they think we're sisters — even better if that happens with my 21-year-old."

Naturally, daughters can't stand it. Drop-dead gorgeous, Samantha, 21, says, "Guys told me all through high school they loved my mom and it really bothered me."

My own daughter, 21, après one too many sister remarks, snaps, "What? Do I look like a 50-year-old woman?"

So what's a mom to do? Cancel the gym membership and embrace her outer greyness? No, says Dr. Karyl McBride, author of *Will I*

Ever Be Good Enough? Healing the Daughters of Narcissistic Mothers. "If a mother takes good care of herself and doesn't age as much, she can be a good role model for her daughter."

Just because you look like her best friend, don't try filling the role, cautions McBride. "These days, mothers and daughters share information about dates and sex. It isn't appropriate. A daughter needs to be able to look up to the mother as the parental figure."

Recently, I read that Kate Hudson had felt intimidated by her mother Goldie Hawn when she was younger. Most of us aren't as successful or as gorgeous as Goldie, so, hopefully, our daughters wouldn't feel that way, nor would we want them to.

In my own house, offi-

cially there's no competition. However, my daughter, unofficial winner of the swimsuit competition, is now taking me on professionally, which I did not see coming. Recently, I told her a story idea of mine, and she told me she was going to write about it for her school newspaper.

Shocked, I told her, "You can't. It's my idea."

"Don't you know you never tell another reporter your story ideas?"

There's only one way to win this, I figure.

Wait until those great new jeans are all alone in your closet and you're out. We're the same size, after all.

Just like sisters.

Georgie Binks is a freelance writer who writes for newspapers, magazines and websites.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: edmontonletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

World's second richest man gets domain name back for free
The world's second richest man, Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim Helu, won control of a web address in his name (www.carlosslimhelu.com) for free yesterday. An arbitrator ruled the site an Indonesian had tried to sell him for \$55 million US was registered in bad faith. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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Ottawa vows to aid Nortel

The federal government pledged yesterday to help Nortel Networks Corp. emerge from bankruptcy protection.

"The government of Canada appreciates the importance of the telecommunications industry to our economy and will con-

tinue to work with Nortel during its restructuring through Export Development Canada," said Industry Minister Tony Clement.

The government agency has agreed to provide up to \$30 million in short-term financing. EDC spokesman Phil Taylor said the

agency's risk tolerance was higher than that of banks, but said its financing would not amount to a bailout.

Nortel, North America's biggest telephone equipment maker, filed for bankruptcy yesterday, hoping to save a once high-flying business whose decade-

long decline has accelerated with the global economic crisis. Analysts said Nortel will have to shed assets.

A sharp slowdown in many of Nortel's major markets, especially the U.S., has exacerbated its problems competing with low-cost rivals. **REUTERS**

Economic slowdown hits Canadian media companies

ADVERTISING The economic slowdown has squeezed advertising spending and hurt quarterly financial results for Canadian media companies, triggering warnings of weaker results and credit problems.

Canwest Global Communications, which owns newspapers in every large urban market in Canada along with the country's Global television network, said yesterday it may fall short of certain financial covenants in its credit facilities if negative economic conditions persist.

Also yesterday, media

and entertainment company Corus Entertainment lowered its forecasts for its fiscal year 2009 due to a slowdown in ad revenue.

Another media company, Quebec-based Cogeco Cable largely escaped the dour atmosphere, reporting a stronger quarterly profit helped by growth in its Canadian operations.

Montreal-based television and radio group Astral Media also dodged the downturn, helped by a big gain in sales and profit from its Standard Radio assets, which it acquired last year. **REUTERS**

CAW inks deal with Air Canada

AIRLINES The Canadian Auto Workers union said yesterday it has reached three-year tentative contract agreements with Air Canada and Groupe Aero-Plan, covering around 5,000 customer service and sales agents.

CAW president Ken Lewenza said the deal includes a small wage increase and gives employees of Aero-Plan a two-year window to return to former sister company Air Canada if they want, or vice versa. At one point, both were under the umbrella of ACE Aviation Holdings. **REUTERS**

Putin the painter Art for charity



Women hold up a painting by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin at a hotel in St. Petersburg yesterday. Putin's painting will be put up for auction for charity on Saturday, alongside two dozen other pictures by Russian celebrities.

Magna denies eyeing Chrysler

AUTOS Magna International has denied it is talking to struggling Chrysler LLC about buying any piece of the automaker, including the Jeep brand. Industry sources say Chrysler is holding discussions with Renault-Nissan and Magna about the sales of assets.

Chrysler vice-chair Tom LaSorda also rejected sug-

gestions the company is trying to sell plants or assets such as tooling for an existing vehicle.

Chrysler is one of Magna's biggest customers. It also assembles vehicles for Chrysler in Austria.

Magna expressed an interest in buying Chrysler from DaimlerChrysler AG in 2007. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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Business in brief

PROTECTION BA Energy Inc., a privately held firm that mothballed a \$4 billion oil sands upgrader in September, was placed under court protection from creditors late last month, a filing showed. According to an affidavit from the chief executive of BA and parent company Value Creation, the company sought relief because it would have been unable to pay a \$50 million loan from Value that was due on Dec. 31. **REUTERS**

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Former CFL player paroled

A former CFL player was granted parole after serving time for knowingly exposing women to the virus that causes AIDS. Trevis Smith, an ex-linebacker with the Saskatchewan Roughriders, made his case before the National Parole Board in Saskatchewan, where he is serving a six-year sentence. He'll be released from prison Feb. 25 and deported to the U.S. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

9

Sports



No Viagra needed for high

Brazilian soccer clubs Palmeiras and Gremio denied they are thinking about giving their players Viagra to combat oxygen depletion during upcoming matches in high-altitude locations. Viagra, or sildenafil citrate, suppresses an enzyme that regulates blood flow and allows vessels to relax and widen.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

No Mercy: Quebec woman dumps law for poker

MARTY YORK

marty.york@metronews.ca



She is 5-foot-2 and maybe 100 pounds but she is a fireball who burns with rage and, frankly, you don't want to mess with her.

At the poker table, where she ranks as one of the planet's top five female players, Canadian Isabelle Mercier is fiercely determined to kick your butt — figuratively, of course. Mind you, as a trained kick boxer, there are no guarantees she'll refrain from hoofing your backside literally, as well.

"Fact is, Isabelle scares

men," Tori Coxon, chief spokesperson for the wildly successful, multi-billion-dollar PokerStars business, says matter-of-factly. "She's tiny, yes, but she's incredibly aggressive, competitive and very intimidating."

And somewhere along the way, this diminutive dynamo from Victoriaville, Que., picked up the nickname "No Mercy." And, well, you get the picture.

"I really think," Mercier says, "that I was born to play a game for a living. I always played games. I played card games with my parents when I was 6. I live to play and win. Poker isn't only my job. It's my passion."



Isabelle Mercier gave up a law career ... for a more lucrative poker career.

And she's good at it. Since finishing second at the Masters Classic in Amsterdam in 2002, Mercier has quietly earned hundreds of thousands of dollars and, accord-

ing to poker sources, has reached millionaire status — to the point where she recently decided to stop living out of a suitcase.

"I got myself an apartment in Monaco," she reveals. "It's a beautiful place. I'm financially set for life. I'm happy."

It wasn't always like this. Mercier used to be a lawyer. Yes, she gave up her job as a full-time lawyer to become a full-time poker player. After obtaining a law degree at the University of Montreal, she practiced commercial law in the city for six months.

And she loathed every second of it.

"It was horrible," she recalls, grimacing. "It was bor-

ing. I hated it so much that I'd spend hours in the washroom, sleeping. Every day."

Did her legal background help prepare her for poker?

"Maybe," she says, "but I learned much more about competing from my kickboxing days."

PokerStars became so enamored of the hardnosed brunette and her style that it hired her as an ambassador. At 33 and single, she plays against challengers at www.pokerstars.net, the world's largest online poker room. She also has written a book called Profession: Bluffer. The French version is out; the English version will be published soon.

But it's at the table where she excels, frequently finishing in the money at tournaments around the world, throwing out the occasional F bomb, staring relentlessly at her predominantly male opponents and consistently frightening the bejeemas out of them.

"To succeed in poker," she says, "you need confidence and an aggressive personality. Otherwise, forget it."

Give the last word to Coxon:

"There aren't many sports where a woman can match up evenly against men," she says, "but Isabelle does. She's shown that a woman can compete in a man's world."

Don't blame: They are who we thought they were

Happy New Year. Now that all the niceties are out of the way, did you hear about the 55-year-old (!!!) Edmonton-area prostitute who blamed her 2006 arrest for soliciting sex from a police officer on the Oilers' Stanley Cup playoff run?

I've heard of blaming Kevin Lowe and Craig MacTavish for a lot of things, but that's a little much.

Speaking of blame — who deserves to shoulder it for the Oilers' so-so 2008-09 campaign? Lowe? Steve Tambellini? The legacy of Peter Pocklington? None of the above?

I'm going with the last option, because, to paraphrase a legendary, shouted quote from former NFL coach Dennis Green, THE OILERS ARE WHO WE THOUGHT THEY WERE!

TheHockeyNews

Adam Proteau

thehockeynews.com

(Quieting down a great deal ...)

That's right, the 2008-09 Oilers are almost exactly who we thought they were — a team that undoubtedly was better than the Edmonton squads that missed the playoffs the last two seasons; a team that by most accounts should qualify for the post-season this time, but a team that likely won't make it to the Western Conference final, let alone to a championship round victory.

There's really nobody to

blame for that.

It's the natural evolution that must happen if you want to build a perennial contender the right way.

Sure, the Oilers have soft spots and a few soft players, but look at their future.

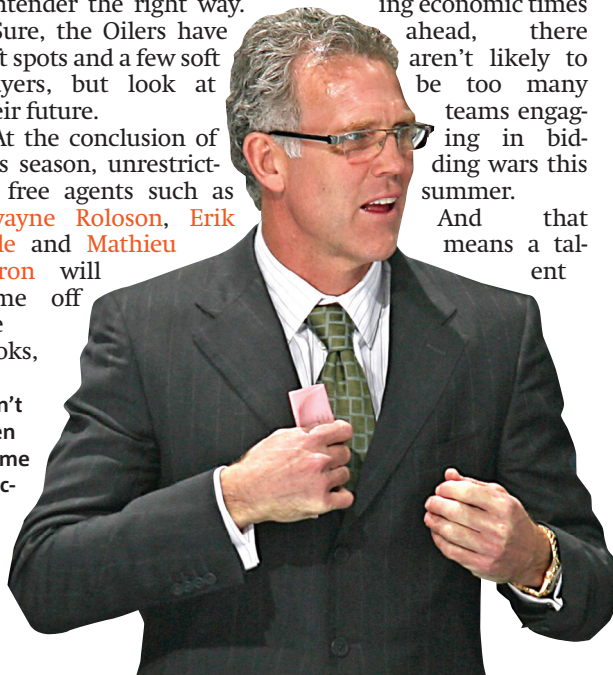
At the conclusion of this season, unrestricted free agents such as Dwayne Roloson, Erik Cole and Mathieu Garon will come off the books,

Don't even blame Mac-T.

leaving Edmonton with close to \$10 million in salary-cap space.

Thanks to the challenging economic times ahead, there aren't likely to be too many teams engaging in bidding wars this summer.

And that means a talent



Tonight



6 p.m., Sportsnet/630 CHED

like Marian Hossa thinks longer and harder about rejecting a truckload of Oilers owner Daryl Katz's money.

Even if the free-agency market doesn't yield huge dividends, some teams will be looking to dump salary via a trade.

And the Oilers still have enough prospects in their system to send to a cash-strapped club in return.

Patience, grasshoppers. The future may not be now, but it's not far off, either.

The Hockey News
thn.com

Sports in brief

NHL Roberto Luongo, out for almost two months with a groin injury, will be back in goal for the Vancouver Canucks tonight. To accommodate his return, the Canucks have waived Curtis Sanford.

NHL The New Jersey Devils officially signed veteran forward Brendan Shanahan yesterday for the remainder of the season. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
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Washington 6 Pittsburgh 3
Chicago 4 Buffalo 1
Detroit at Anaheim

NBA

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EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Fireplaces add some sizzle to your home

JULIA TEXTOR
for Source Media Group



Imagine coming home after a long day of work, turning on some Norah Jones and curling up on the cosy couch with a hot cup of tea and a magazine. Now, imagine all this with a sensuous fireplace in front of you.

Nothing makes a room more warm and inviting than a beautiful fireplace with mesmerizing flames and vibrant colours. Whether it's a wood-burning, gas or electric unit, a fireplace can not only be a heating solution — especially in the winter months — but it can also be the most decorative accent piece in your home.

Linear fireplaces are one of the latest trends in today's urban market and make no muss and require no fuss and no burning of wood log — real or artificial. They are available in gas or electric models and consist of a simple row of burners across the middle of a fireplace.

"As opposed to having the regular square opening, linear fireplaces are more elongated with sort of the same ratio as a widescreen television," says Warren Krushel of Hearth Fireplaces/Depot in Calgary. "They're more contemporary in design and have beads or rocks instead of logs."

Montigo is one manufacturer of linear fireplaces attracting much attention from consumers. The company, based in B.C., has been in the fireplace industry for more than 30 years and stretches across North America. Montigo's line of linear fireplaces, the Contemporary Custom C-View Power Vent series includes single-sided, see-through, panorama, corner and peninsula models that are eye-catching and unique.

"This has really caught the attention of the younger generation, people with a little bit more of a



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Linear fireplaces are one of the latest trends in today's urban market.

flair for modern (styles), interior designers and architects," notes Krushel.

While Montigo's linear fireplaces are all gas-burning, not all residences are suited for this type of unit; which is why Hearth Fireplaces/Depot offers an electric fireplace by Classic Flame called the Zen Builders Box.

"Whether people go gas or electric usually depends on the availability of the gas service to the fireplace location," says Krushel.

As electric fireplaces require no installation, chimneys or gas pipelines, they are convenient and uncomplicated especially for those

"Whether people go gas or electric usually depends on the availability of the gas service to the fireplace location."

Warren Krushel

who may live in a 20-storey high-rise or a smaller single-family home without the space for a traditional gas unit.

"You take it home, put it together like a piece of IKEA furniture, and plug it in," Krushel says. Although the Zen Builders Box is one model that is designed for professional installation, it is still much easier to connect it to a home's electrical system than run a gas line through the building.

For the most part, electric fireplaces are plug-and-play and work almost like a space heater; the heat

spewed from the fireplace is artificial and is not actually produced from the flames.

As "contemporary" and "modern" seem to be the buzz words in the design world these days, Australian manufacturer, EcoSmart Fire, is keeping up with the trends and giving consumers what they want — aesthetically pleasing, but still functioning fireplaces. And with one glance at the fire products offered on their website, ecosmart-fire.com, there is no doubt that these Aussies are très chic. As the exclusive dealer of EcoSmart Fire in Alberta, Edmonton's Le Belle Arti Furniture and Lighting is leading the way in design and modern living.

"People really want a clean look in their places,"

says design consultant, Andreea Sendziak at Le Belle Arti. "I think they're moving away from their typical boxy gas fireplaces and they want more of a trendy look."

A most intriguing line from EcoSmart is their Designer Range series of fireplaces, which act as free-standing, portable pieces of furniture. Not only are there several shapes, styles and a variety of colours to suit any decor, but the fireplaces are also great heating solutions. Sendziak says she has noticed the stainless steel Oxygen model, which



Whatever your space may be, there is likely a fireplace that would fit right in.

is defined by its sleek, simple lines and rectangular shape, as a favourite among her clients.

In addition to being the most tasteful decoration, EcoSmart also uses innovative technology to create environmentally friendly, flueless, open-concept fires that are fuelled by a renewable resource called Denatured Ethanol. It burns clean and bright and is composed of biological products, making it more eco-friendly.

EDITED BY METRO EDMONTON

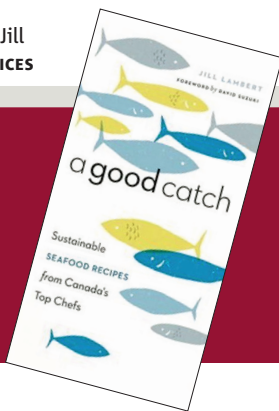
Purchase online

A Good Catch, Sustainable Seafood Recipes from Canada's Top Chefs by Jill Lambert is available online at Amazon.ca from \$15.72. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

11

Food

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA



“A Good Catch by Jill Lambert culled recipes from Canadian chefs, from a Taco Trout Bake to Grilled Swordfish with Forbidden Black Rice and Soy Emulsion.”

Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

Not always more fish in the sea

À la carte

Barb Holland

Metro Food Writer

Many of us are eating more fish and seafood for its health benefits, but are we making good choices for healthy oceans?

SeaChoice, Canada's Seafood Guide, is a handy wallet card that lists categories such as Best Choice, Some Concerns and Avoid for all fish and seafood. For a copy of the guide, go to seachoice.org and carry it with you to help make sustainable seafood choices when shopping or eating out. Due to sometimes inadequate labelling, be prepared to ask questions such as: Where is it from? Is this fished or farmed?

A new book by Vancouver-based writer, Jill Lambert, *A Good Catch, Sustainable Seafood Recipes from Canada's Top Chefs* (Greystone Books/Douglas & McIntyre), \$25, provides insight and information. It begins with a discussion about fish on making good fish decisions, choosing, preparing and storing fish and seafood; basic cooking directions and a quite extensive Species Sustainability



When we eat fish, are we making good choices for healthy oceans? SeaChoice, Canada's Seafood Guide (pictured), is available in full — including a full legend to explain each entry — at seachoice.org.

Guide (done by the David Suzuki Foundation and SeaChoice Canada). The book also suggests substitutions for fish that may not fit into the SeaChoice guidelines, so you can still cook your stand-by recipes responsibly.

Salmon and Edamame Salad with Wasabi Mayonnaise

From Karen Barnaby, The Fish House in Stanley Park, Vancouver, this easy salad calls for canned salmon. Look for wild Pacific salmon as the Best Choice. Makes 4 servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 can (7 oz/213 g) pink salmon, well drained
- 1 cup (250 ml) shelled

- edamame (fresh soy beans), cooked and chilled
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) finely diced celery
- 2 green onions, white and green parts, thinly sliced
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) mayonnaise
- 2 tsp (10 ml) wasabi paste (or more to taste)
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) sesame seeds, toasted, for garnish
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) julienned fresh ginger, for garnish

METHOD:

In a bowl, combine salmon, edamame, celery and green onions.

In another bowl, combine mayonnaise and wasabi paste (to taste). Gently fold into salmon mixture. Cover and refrigerate to allow flavours to blend, about 30 minutes.

Best Choice

- Catfish (US) **farmed**
- Caviar/ Sturgeon **farmed**
- Clams **farmed**
- Cod: Pacific (US) **bottom longline, jig, pot**
- Crab: Dungeness
- Fish sticks: Pollock (AK)
- Haddock (Canada) **bottom longline**
- Hake: Pacific (Canada)
- Herring: Atlantic (US), Pacific (Canada)
- Imitation crab: Pollock (AK)
- Lobster: American (Atl. Canada)
- Lobster: Rock, Spiny (Aus., US, Western Baja)
- Mussels **farmed**
- Oysters **farmed**
- Pollock (AK)
- Sablefish (AK, BC)
- Sardine: Brisling, Sprats (US)
- Shrimp/ Prawn: Sidestripe, Spot (BC) **trap-caught**
- Swordfish (Atl. Canada) **harpoon**
- Tilapia (US) **farmed**
- Trout: Rainbow **land-based farmed**
- *Tuna **trawl-caught**

Some Concerns

- Catfish/ Tra/ Basa (Int'l) **farmed**
- Clams: Atlantic soft shell (Atl.), Geoduck (US Pac.) **wild**
- Cod: Pacific (Canada, US) **trawl**
- Crab: King, Snow (Canada, US)
- Haddock (US) **bottom longline**
- Halibut: Atlantic, Pacific (Canada) **bottom longline**
- Lingcod
- Lobster: American (US Atl.)
- Mahi mahi/ Dolphinfish/ Dorado
- Mussels **wild**
- Octopus (US)
- Oysters **wild**
- Sablefish (CA, OR, WA)
- **Salmon: Pacific **wild**
- Scallops: Sea (NE Atl. US)
- Shark (US Pac.)
- Shrimp (Atl., Gulf of Mexico) **trawled**
- Sole (Pac.)
- Squid: Jumbo, Humboldt, Shortfin, Summer (Int'l)
- Swordfish (US Atl.) **pelagic longline**
- Trout: Rainbow (Canada) **open-cage farmed**
- *Tuna (US) **pelagic longline**

Avoid

- Caviar/ Sturgeon (Int'l) **wild**
- Chilean seabass/ Patagonian toothfish
- Clams (Atl.) **dredged**
- Cod: Atlantic
- Crab: King (Russia)
- Flounder/ Sole: (US Atl., Arrowtooth (Canada))
- Grenadier
- Haddock **trawl**
- Halibut: Atlantic (US) **trawl**
- Lobster: Spiny (Int'l except Aus. + US)
- Monkfish
- Orange roughy
- Rockfish/ Snapper **trawl**
- Salmon: Atlantic, Chinook **farmed**
- Scallops: Sea (Canada, Mid-Atl. US)
- Shark (Atl., Int'l)
- Shrimp/ Prawn: Tiger, White (Int'l)
- Swordfish (Canada, Med., SE Atl.) **pelagic longline**
- Tilapia (China, Taiwan) **farmed**
- *Tuna (Pac. Int'l) **pelagic longline**
- Tuna: Bluefin

frozen in pods or shelled. Cook according to package directions, usually about 4 to 6 minutes in boiling water. Drain, rinse with cold water and remove beans from pods.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Canadian Living magazine is on sale now!

Canadian Living recipe of the month

Linguine with Clams

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 lb (750 g) fresh littleneck clams
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) dry white wine
- 8 oz (250g) linguine
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped flat-leaf parsley
- Pinch each salt and hot pepper flakes
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) butter

METHOD:

Scrub clams; discard any that do not close when tapped.

In saucepan, cover and

steam clams and wine over high heat until clams open, 4 to 5 minutes. Strain into bowl, reserving broth. Discard any clams that do not open. Set aside.

In large pot of boiling salted water, cook linguine according to package directions until tender but firm; drain.

Meanwhile, in skillet, heat oil over medium-low heat; cook garlic, parsley, salt and hot pepper flakes, stirring occasionally, until garlic is softened but not browned, about 2 minutes.

Add reserved clam broth; bring to boil. Add



For more great recipes, visit metronews.ca.

linguine; boil on high, stirring often, until about 3 tbsp (45 mL) liquid remains, about 2 minutes.

Add clams; toss until heated through. Stir in butter.



Liquid Assets

Peter Rockwellliquidassets@eastlink.ca

Comfort wines

While I've never needed any added incentive, the recent blend of crappy weather and an even crappier economy have surely been enough to drive even the most determined teetotaler to drink.

With the way the world's spinning lately the search for wines that combine a decent price with drinkable juice isn't just a quest for the thrifty — it's a necessity for almost everybody.

In times like these I look to my list of comfort wines; those that wrap my palate in consistent familiarity without picking my pocket.

To find a great red deal look down, way down, to South America. The **2008 Cono Sur Pinot Noir** (\$11.45 - \$12.99) from Chile is a classy little pinot with a light and juicy strawberry/cherry fruit flavour that ends with a soft, milk chocolate finish. Its refreshing acidity makes it a great match for grilled salmon or a zingy tomato sauce.

Prefer white? Try Australia's **2008 Yellow Tail Pinot Grigio** (\$10.95 - \$11.99), a clean, lemon-meets-lime fruit fest with a lean, green flavour and zesty, citrus aroma that's a nice partner for grilled shrimp (or any other fish with a shell) and just about any poultry dish.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.



Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

United States Presidential Inauguration

Obama's pick

• During an appearance on a public television restaurant review show years ago, the next president raved about the peach cobbler served at a diner in his Chicago neighbourhood, the Dixie Kitchen and Bait Shop. For a recipe of the very same Peach Cobbler dessert, visit metronews.ca.



Pandas turned from China's national icon into a fashion statement as New York designer Vivienne Tam showcased black-and-white outfits at a Beijing show to raise funds for the endangered animal's quake-stricken habitat. **REUTERS**

Style



Makeup good enough for a Dame

Renowned for her lilac hair and rhinestone-encrusted eye glasses, Dame Edna can now add MAC Cosmetics muse to her long list of accomplishments. With packaging as mirthful as the stage icon herself (each item includes a design of her whimsical eye wear), the colours are meant to portray Edna's over-the-top personality as well. The collection includes lipsticks, lip glosses, eye shadows, hi-light powder and nail lacquers, ranging from \$11 to \$39. Available at MAC counters across the country and at maccosmetics.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Canuck designs on Obama gown

Four of the country's top fashion gurus sketch looks for the next first lady

In less than a week's time, the question that has pre-occupied style watchers for months will finally be answered. In the meantime, how about one final game of What-Will-Michelle-Obama-Wear-To-The-Inaugural-Ball?

Though her ultimate pick will almost certainly be an American, some of Canada's top fashion designers agreed to play along in case the future first lady feels a sudden urge to do a little cross-border shopping.

Wayne Clark, David Dixon, Andy Thé-Anh and Joeffer Caoc have each sketched an original gown for Mrs. O to wear on Jan. 20 when she and the new president will play host to seven balls in Washington, D.C., and attend three others on the night he's sworn in. The first lady's gown is typically long and ornate.

"There are periods when this dress is just covered in decoration — fringe and sequins and fur and beads and lace," says Lisa Kathleen Graddy, curator of the

United States Presidential Inauguration

First Ladies Exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution, where 14 inaugural dresses are on display.

Speculators predict Obama will spurn doodads in favour of a refined approach à la Jackie Kennedy in her simple, white Oleg Cassini dress. It had beading on the bodice but it was subtle beneath a chiffon overlay.

Mary Tomer, a 27-year-old account planner with British advertising agency Bartle Bogle Hegarty, has been tracking the future first lady's style since the Democratic National Convention last summer. With backing from her employer, the Manhattan-based blogger launched a website, Mrs-O.org, that follows the whos and whats of Obama's wardrobe.

For the inaugural ball, Tomer picks the New Jersey-born designer Narciso Rodriguez, whom Obama



WAYNE CLARK/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wayne Clark

• Clark channelled Halston for his interpretation of the inaugural gown. "She's a very clean silhouette kind of person. I don't see her in strapless but I thought one shoulder would be great for her."

• The dress is finished in a four-ply, satin-back crepe cut on the bias. The ostrich feathers are part of a removable kimono jacket. "She can't wear fur, or PETA will be all over her."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



DAVID DIXON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

David Dixon

• Dixon was inspired by Jacqueline Kennedy and Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, the first lady of France. "Oleg Cassini kept it very streamlined and simple for Jackie O. It was always very put-together."

• The outer coat is a heavy silk taffeta in a matte finish — not too shiny. He notes the colour is flattering. "Bruni has worn a lot of that regal purple and so has Michelle Obama."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Andy Thé-Anh

• "Usually we always think she should wear red or purple. I wanted to try something different."

• The body of the dress is finished in an amber stretch satin charmeuse. The black bandeau top is in a satin taffeta. Flowing silk chiffon in a fiesta colour completes the draping.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



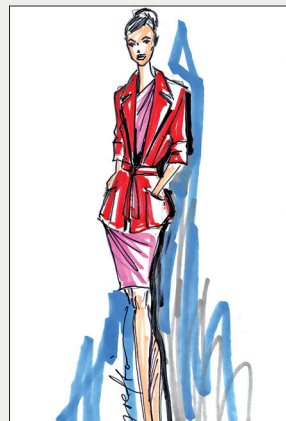
ANDY THÉ-ANH/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Joeffer Caoc

• Caoc tries for an effect that will catch people off guard. "I think unexpected is a good word. As much as I wanted her husband to win, I didn't think he would."

• The overall look: "Really clean. No accessories. A reflection, pretty much, on what I do." The boyfriend jacket is satin: the fuchsia dress is draped jersey. The colour combination is "really current and modern."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Let your garments help you fake it

Style File



kim.elbo@gmail.com

ask kim

I am looking for a product that will keep my closet fresh and free of smell.

Home Outfitters carries a product called Febreze Closet Renewables; they're shelves that keep your clothes organized and free of that old musty smell. NaturzAire also carries an odour absorbing product perfect for your closet.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.



\$38

Tight Top
Designer: Smart Set
Shop: Smart Set
Address: Various Locations
smartset.ca



\$72

Slim Skirt
Designer: Skyler
Shop: Skyler
Address: Various Locations
skyler.ca



\$140

Booty Jean
Designer: Mavi
Shop: Mavi
Address: Various Locations
mavi.com



\$16

Top Shape
Designer: Joe Fresh
Shop: Superstore
Address: Various Locations
joe.ca



\$20

Hot Pants
Designer: Twin Syndrome
Shop: Twigg & Hottie
twinsyndrome.com



\$35

Taut Tights
Designer: La Vie en Rose
Shop: La Vie en Rose
Address: Various Locations
lavieenrose.com

Outerwear Shapewear

Face it: Some of us weren't born with a perfectly proportionate body, but that's okay when we've got garments that make it look like we were. Falsely flaunt it with the built-in backside padding jeans by Mavi. The jeans will lift, extend and enhance your derriere. Flatten out your mid-section with the Smart Set top — the ribbed vertical lines will tighten and elongate your torso while the free-flowing top and sleeves will help balance out the look. The convertible skirt/top by Skyler will keep things tucked in and hidden with its strong spandex and A-line cut.

accessory: Palmers, \$3.99, contains 100 per cent pure cocoa butter and antioxidants with vitamins A, C and E. Available at Shoppers Drug Mart.



Body Shapewear

Perhaps it will take you longer than a couple of weeks to check off that New Year's resolution of shedding 10 to 20 pounds. So in the meantime why not fool everyone else into thinking that your 30-minute, once-weekly gym sessions are actually paying off? Friends will never know that your undergarments are actually doing the work. Hide your muffin top with hot pants from Twin Syndrome, visibly lean up those thighs with tights from La Vie en Rose, and take in a little tummy tuck with the Joe Fresh shaper top.

Ricardo Montalban dies

Actor Ricardo Montalban, best known as the mysterious Mr. Roarke on the popular television series Fantasy Island, died yesterday at the age of 88, a Los Angeles city official said. **REUTERS**

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA



Her big gig

Jennifer Hudson will sing the National Anthem at the Super Bowl in what will be her first performance since her family murder tragedy last October.

PEOPLE.COM

Evolution of the jam band

Gym Class Heroes stitch together diverse sounds

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

Imagine an album that stitches together musical genres, multi-generational guest-stars and pop-punk style, and you have *The Quilt*.

On that album, Gym Class Heroes (GCH) play out like a poppier Roots: A jam-band fronted by a rapper but that aims at the Fall Out Boy demographic. Hip-hop purists hear the band's guitars and drums, while the pop-punks focus on their raps. But no matter the milieu, the band doesn't tailor their performance to the crowd.

"We don't play differently, but are perceived differently," said drummer Matt McGinley. "At the end of the day, whether it's rock, hip hop, R&B, soul or funk, all the influences we find within ourselves come out when we play."

As with any group that wears influences squarely on both sleeves, GCH must tackle the ensuring debate: Is their music original or derivative? McGinley, when asked if he thinks artists are comfortable wearing their influences proudly, said that's true to a certain extent.

"It's all about being inspired and influenced by somebody — (and) to be using (these influences) in

new and creative ways, rather than being obvious," he said.

When the band started out 10 years ago, McGinley was drawn to jazz and funk percussion, while founding member Travis McCoy delivered his verses through raps. McGinley learned to play drums to 'uestlove's work on The Roots's album *Things Fall Apart*, and the duo looked to that group's innovative approach to rap music and ability to jam out their songs.

"We didn't set out to be a hip-hop band — we were just kids who wanted to make noise in our parent's living rooms. Over



Gym Class Heroes blend hip hop, rock, R&B, soul and funk on their latest album, *The Quilt*.

the years we moved towards that kind of sound," said McGinley. "It's cool to be able to showcase your musical chops and abilities as a band ... but it's all

about what can enhance the song."

For example, in the seven-minute long *Live Forever*, Darryl Hall laid down a really long, freeform outro.

"(Darryl was) assuming we would fade it out at reasonable length of time, but we thought it sounded cool, so why not let him kill it," said McGinley.

MusicReviews

music@metronews.ca

A.C. Newman

Album: Get Guilty
Label: Last Gang Records
Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

IN THE WORLD

OF Canadian indie darlings, A.C. Newman maybe the darlingest. The hipsters are already atwitter about this second solo release from the creative light behind the New Pornographers. But let's keep our feet on the ground. This is not an earth-shaking epic that is going to change the face of alt-rock. It is a charming, intelligent album with roots squarely in the '60s English psychedelic scene, offering up nods to acid-era Donovan Leitch, and early David Bowie.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada



critics'corner

The Gong Show With Dave Attell

The classics never die, but some of them should. It was a great day when CBS resurrected the classy "Password." The return of this tacky amateur show? Not so much. In the 1970s, it was a way for those who thought they had talent — or knew they didn't but just wanted to be on TV — to get their 15 seconds of fame. With the reality-TV explosion, however, there are gazillions of ways to score that face time, rendering this show a cheesy and occasional sleazy anachronism. 11:30 PM on COM



Touch of Pink

A gay man (Jimi Mistry) of South Asian descent pretends to be straight, passing his boyfriend (Kristen Holden-Reid) off as just a roommate, when his devoutly Muslim mother (Suleka Mathew) arrives to take him to a relative's wedding in Toronto. The ruse eventually collapses, but all ends well. Kyle MacLachlan is a standout in this 2004 romantic comedy as the ghost of actor Cary Grant, who regularly dispenses wry advice to our hero. 7 PM on BRAVO

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt



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metronews.ca/globalstyle

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IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis



Read it at metronews.ca

ED	C	B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
1/15/09	2	CFRN	239 318	etalk	Hollywood	ER "Dream Runner" (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		News (N)
	3	KHQ	- 370	College Basketball	Santa Clara at Gonzaga. (Live)			Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	The Office (N)	30 Rock	(11:01) ER
	4	CBXT	- 307	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Doc Zone (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National	The Hour	
	6	KREM	- 372	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Eleventh Hour
	7	CKEM	241 347	Law & Order: SVU		Murdoch Mysteries		Ugly Betty (N)		30 Rock	30 Rock	Your City
	8	CITV	240 339	ET Canada	Entertainment	The Unit "Sex Trade"		Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		The Office (N)	Billable Hours	News Hour
	11	OMNI	- -	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News		News		The Simpsons	King	Metropia
	12	CBXFT	119 705	Virginie (SC)	Infoman (SC)	Enquête (HDTV) (SC)		M pour musique (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		TJ Alberta
	13	KXLY	- 371	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)		Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)	Practice
	16	KAYU	- 373	The Simpsons	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men		Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Kitchen Nightmares (N)	News (N)
news	19	CHTV	- -	The Insider (N)	El News	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)		The House Next Door (2006, Suspense)	Lara Flynn Boyle.		News (N)
	22	KSPS	- 374	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		NW Profiles	Sanibel-Siberia		Poirot		New Tricks	Soundstage (N)
	24	WTVS	- 364	Ask This Old	Michigan	The Human Face (DVS)		Red Green	Summer Wine		Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)
	15	CBNC	502 -	CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Nature-Things
	21	TWN	505 398	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	27	CNN	500 500	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	54	CTVN	501 391	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	70	BNN	504 508	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	20	TSN	400 400	NHL Hockey		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		Off the Record		Boxing: Adamek vs. Cunningham		
	23	net	408 418	NHL Hockey: Oilers at Wild		NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at San Jose Sharks. (Live)						Sportsnet Con.
sports	47	SPEED	417 406	(5) Barrett-Jackson Automobile Auction Thursday action from Scottsdale, Ariz.						Barrett-Jackson Automobile Auction (HDTV)		
	94	SCORE	410 403	NBA Basketball: Cavaliers at Bulls		NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Denver Nuggets. (Live)						Final Score
	9	EDACC	267 351	Truth, Duty, Valour		Medium		Eleventh Hour "H2O" (N)		Private Practice (N)		Help TV
	14	YTV	552 543	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach
	17	TREE	553 546	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	42	TOON	555 545	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	Sixteen	Misadventures	Futurama	The Critic
	45	FAM	557 541	Zoe 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han, Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	-	TVA	121 714	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Petit monde de Laura Cadieux		Juste pour rire (SC)		Juste pour rire (SC)		TVA 22 heures
	18	CMT	575 583	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	25	A&E	615 520	The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		The Beast "Pilot" (N)		(8:52) The Beast		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48
family	26	MMM	571 581	Listed (Part 1 of 2)		Tommy Lee	Where You At	Celebrity Wrestling		Party of Five		Countdown
	29	FOOD	603 561	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Family	Glutton	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Challenge		Unwrapped
	31	SHOW	617 522	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		About a Girl	Love-Death	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	American Pie 2
	32	DISC	520 505	Secrets of the Crystal Cave		MythBusters		Daily Planet		Deadliest Catch		Tutankhamun
	33	SLICE	601 562	Last 10	Last 10	The Biggest Loser		ET Canada	Matchmaker	The Biggest Loser		Trading Sp
	34	W	602 567	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design
	35	TLC	521 560	Saw for Hire	Saw for Hire	LA Ink "66 Nikkis" (N)		Saw for Hire	Saw for Hire	LA Ink "66 Nikkis"		Overhauled
	36	BRAVO	620 523	Touch of Pink (2004, Romance-Comedy)		Bravonews		Law & Order		Without a Trace "4.0"		Frogs-Snakes
	38	SPIKE	628 584	TNA IMPACT! (HDTV) (N)				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC Primetime	UFC Primetime	UFC: Access
	40	HIST	522 506	Deep Wreck Mysteries		NCIS "Witch Hunt"		Ancestors	Ancestors	Lost Worlds		Engineering
cable variety	41	COM	626 547	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs			The Simpsons	South Park	VIP
	43	SPACE	627 528	Rabbit Fall	Rabbit Fall	Ghost Hunters International		Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Deep Space 9
	44	WPCH	294 650	Shadow Conspiracy ★ (1997, Suspense) Charlie Sheen.				Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Shadow Conspiracy ★	
	46	OLN	411 457	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally		Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter
	48	TROP	619 525	What Happen?	What Happen?	Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy
	50	STAR	621 527	Star Yearbook		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ	etalk	The View (HDTV)		Star Yearbook
	52	HGTV	600 564	The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip
	65	TLN	700 800	(6) Maigret La Trappola		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez	George Lopez	The Sopranos (SS)		Paid Program
	92	APT	269 350	Suaangan	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	renegadeexpress	North ★★ (1994, Comedy-Drama) Elijah Wood, Bruce Willis.				Rez Rides
	93	VISION	261 394	Crossing Delancey ★★ (1988, Romance-Comedy)				Poltergeist: The Legacy		Crossing Delancey ★★ (1988)		
cable variety	100	MTV	581 566	The Real World		True Life		MTV Live	After	Next	Mom & Dad	True Life
	101	MM	570 580	Brooke Knows	Brooke Knows	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Brooke Knows	Brooke Knows	MuchTopTens
	102	CPAC	512 396	(6:30) Headline Politics			Revue	Question Period		Prime-Politics	Headline Politics	
	103	VIVA	526 507	The West Wing		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.	Encounters	Judging Amy		Wild Dreams
	106	RDI	126 730	Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal (SC)		Le Journal RDI	Le National	Le Téléjournal



Baldwin the broadcaster
Alec Baldwin has landed a job as a radio host. He has been offered the role as host for the New York Philharmonic's national radio broadcasts. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Kanye's unlikely style inspiration

FASHION Kanye West has revealed his fashion inspiration: Gay men, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The website says an old video clip of Kanye has been unearthed and in it the rapper reveals that he often checks out what gay men are wearing.

"Gays really know how to dress," he states. He also reveals another source of inspiration: "I feel like Japanese dress really good too."

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Heche has the baby boy blues

BABY Anne Heche has offered some blue clues of the gender of her baby, people.com reports.

At the Boom Boom Room Children's Gifting Wonderland in Los Angeles, the actress chose a pair of Robeez Guitar leather booties in pastel blue, a dozen blue Happy Heins reusable diapers and a blue MiGi baby blanket, the website says.

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Kate's body gets rave Hollywood reviews

PEOPLE Oprah Winfrey is proud of Kate Winslet's real golden globes, us-magazine.com reports.

"I love the fact that you have real breasts, 'cause in all the breast scenes, your breasts do what real breasts do," she said Tuesday on The Oprah Winfrey Show.

"There's that wonderful thing, you know, if you are a woman, you're lying on your back, your breasts they go to — they part — but if you look at a woman with not real breasts, their breasts are sticking straight up," she told the actress, who won two Golden Globes Sunday.

"That's how you know. God bless your real breasts!"

Halle Berry also finds Winslet stunning: She recently remarked that "Kate Winslet is always naked, sitting on a toilet, or running buck naked. I want to be the kind of actress who can really be comfortable with my body like that."

"That's so amazing," Winslet — who bares it all in her new dra-

ma The Reader — recently told Parade. "That is worth the pain! I am thrilled to hear someone like Halle say something like that. But what I would want to say to her is, 'Well, you can,' because all I do is say, 'I don't give a —!'"

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Media twisted my words: Nicole

MEDIA Nicole Kidman claims the media has twisted her words, femalefirst.co.uk says. After reports that she is unhappy with her performance in new movie Australia, she insists that her comments have been hugely misinterpreted.

The star said in an interview with

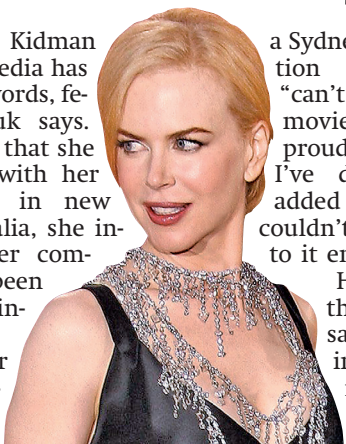
a Sydney radio station that she "can't look at this movie and be proud of what I've done." She added she couldn't "connect to it emotionally."

However, the actress says she was in fact referring to her whole

body of work and not just this production. She claims that she can never bear to watch herself on screen.

A representative for the actress told Australian newspaper The Sydney Morning Herald: "It is quite ridiculous for anyone to believe that reports if they listened to the actual interview. It's hard to believe some of the world's media have fallen for it."

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No love for U.S. theatre audiences: Daniel

CAREER Daniel Radcliffe blasted U.S. theatregoers, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor — who is currently appearing in the Broadway play Equus — says American audiences

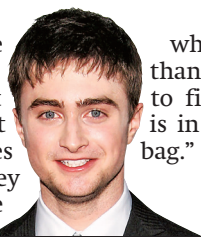
are noisy, rude and have no respect for the arts.

The star said: "I would like to initiate an initiative, the Broadway Annoying Audience Member Relocation Programme, so we

can lose the people whose phones ring more than three times, that have the kind of throat condition which causes them to cough like they have consumption, those

who take more than 10 seconds to find whatever is in their plastic bag."

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Britney moving on up

PEOPLE With a new outlook for her life and career, Britney Spears is about to change addresses, people.com reports.

"I just took my babies to our new home and they loved it! I can't wait to move in," the pop star says on her website.

Spears, 27, who has visitation rights — including overnights — with her sons Jayden, 2, and Preston, 3, put her six-bedroom, six-bathroom Studio City, Calif., on the market for more than \$7 million US. There was no official word on where the new house is, people.com adds.

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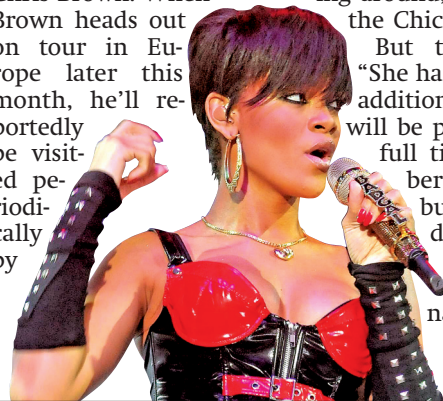
Rihanna sends out spy

RELATIONSHIP Rihanna is apparently more than a little suspicious of boyfriend Chris Brown. When Brown heads out on tour in Europe later this month, he'll reportedly be visited periodically by

a female private investigator hired by Rihanna "just to make sure he's not fooling around," a source told the Chicago Sun-Times.

But that's not all. "She has even hired an additional 'mole' who will be part of the tour full time ... a member of Chris' team, but someone he doesn't realize is also spying on him for Rihanna."

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Wedding bells for Depp?

MARRIAGE Wedding bells may finally be ringing for Johnny Depp. The reclusive actor is said to be planning to marry his longtime girlfriend, Vanessa Paradis, in a private ceremony on the grounds of their \$1.25 million US French estate, according to the National Enquirer.

"They're planning to marry in April," a source told the tabloid. "They want a really small wedding with only 50 family and close friends."

Depp and Paradis have been together for 10 years and have two children together, nine-year-old Lily Rose and six-year-old Jack.

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